

Graduating with the Standard Diploma

(Ninth graders in 2000-01, 2001-02, or 2002-03)



For the **Standard Diploma**, a student must earn at least **22 standard units of credit** (plus any required locally), which are based on coursework, and **six verified units of credit**, which are earned by passing the course and its related Standards of Learning test or an approved substitute test.

Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time in either the 2000-01, 2001-02, or 2002-03 school years are required to earn **TWO verified units of credit in ENGLISH** (one each in reading and writing) and **FOUR in subjects of the STUDENT'S OWN CHOICE**, as follows:

English (two verified units of credit):

The two verified units of credit may be earned by passing the high school Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in English/Reading and English/Writing. As with all high school SOL tests, these may be retaken if the student does not pass on the first or subsequent attempt.

An acceptable score on approved substitute tests including, among others, the ACT, WorkKeys: Writing, SAT II English, Advanced Placement (AP) English tests, or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), also may earn verified units of credit in English.

Student's Choice (four verified units of credit):

These verified units of credit may be earned by passing ANY four of the 10 high school SOL tests in mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry), science (Biology, Earth Science, or Chemistry), or history/social science (U.S. History, World History I, World History II, or World Geography). An acceptable score on any of the approved substitute tests including, among others, the ACT, Advanced Placement (AP), College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), or SAT II, also may earn verified units of credit.

Additionally, the Board of Education has approved a large number of state licensing exams in career/technical fields, as well as national industry certification exams, that count towards verified units of credit. *

Local Award of Credits in Science and History/Social Science:

Students who score **375-399** on any high school SOL test (a score of 400 is passing) in science or history/social science — *who have taken the test at least twice and who have earned fewer than four student-selected credits* — may appeal to a panel of local educators. The local panel will evaluate the student's academic record and may award the verified units of credit in the course or assign additional work to be completed in order to earn the verified units of credit. Local awarding of a verified unit of credit only applies to students who entered the ninth grade for the first time in either the 2000-01, 2001-02, or 2002-03 school years.

*** Talk to your guidance counselor for a complete list of all approved substitute exams that may be used to earn verified units of credit. Or go to www.pen.k12.va.us and click of on "Project Graduation."**